



**IMPLEMENTATION AND  
IMPACT OF THE  
EVIDENCE-BASED  
CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM  
CHECKLIST IN CALIFORNIA  
RSAT PROJECTS**

*December 16, 2015*

**Board of State and Community Corrections**

★ LEADERSHIP ★ EXCELLENCE ★ SUPPORT ★

# Learning Objectives

After completing this webinar participants will be able to:

- Describe the general purpose of the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC)
- Identify the five domains measured through the CPC
- Identify the implementation process for assessing projects with the CPC
- Identify the follow-up improvement planning process for projects that have been assessed with the CPC
- List five benefits to projects that have been assessed with the CPC
- List two obstacles or challenges experienced by projects that have been assessed with the CPC

# The BSCC Mission

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) was established in statute effective July 1, 2012 to serve as an independent body providing leadership and technical assistance to the adult and juvenile criminal justice system. The legislative mandates that supported the establishment of the BSCC gave clear direction that the BSCC is to improve public safety through cost-effective, promising and evidence-based strategies and programs that manage and rehabilitate the statewide criminal and juvenile justice populations.

# The BSCC supports local projects through:

- *Technical Assistance*
- *Consultation*
- *Monitoring*
- *Web Resources*
- *Workshops*
- *Program Funding*
- *Training*
- ***Evidence-Based Correctional Program Checklist Assessment***



# The Evidence-Based Correctional Program Checklist

The CPC is tool designed to evaluate the extent to which the services delivered by a program adhere to the principles of effective interventions that are known to reduce recidivism.

- ✓ Provides programs with great feedback on effective correctional practices and solid, practical recommendations on how to improve or implement them.

# The Evidence-Based Correctional Program Checklist (CPC)

1. The purpose of the CPC is to document the strengths and weaknesses of offender treatment programs with the goal of helping correctional systems provide cost-effective services (i.e. services that reduce recidivism).
2. The CPC was developed from an extensive body of literature on the principles of effective correctional practices.
3. Based on the “What Works” literature (i.e., the results of meta-analytic reviews) and based on the collective experience of authors and associates.
4. Based on the results of over 500 evaluations and three large outcome studies conducted by the CCJR.

# How Can the CPC Assessment Enhance Skills and Knowledge Related to Effective Correctional Practices Known to Reduce Recidivism?

- ✓ Provides feedback on whether programs are following principles of effective interventions
- ✓ Can help increase effectiveness of the services provided to offenders
- ✓ Helps agencies speak a common language related to EBP
- ✓ Provides knowledge on research that supports EBP
- ✓ Provides recommendations and guidance about general training in evidence-based programs
- ✓ Provides recommendations and guidance about project evaluation
- ✓ Provides recommendations and guidance regarding annual or ongoing staff training needed
- ✓ Provides recommendations and guidance for providers
- ✓ Provides recommendations and guidance regarding supervision and qualifications
- ✓ Increases a project's ability to be competitive in bids for future funding

# The CPC is designed to evaluate services delivered by:

- Sheriff's Offices
- Behavioral Health Departments
- Probation Departments
- Community-Based Organizations
- Juvenile Halls
- Jails
- Training Providers
- BSCC Constituents

# Sub-Components of the CPC Assessment Tool

Two Categories Across Five Domains

## A. Capacity

1. Leadership and Development
2. Staff Characteristics
3. Quality Assurance

## B. Content

4. Offender Assessment
5. Treatment Characteristics

# CPC Assessment Tool

- 73 indicators
- 79 total points
- Each indicator is correlated with research supporting a reduction in recidivism



# What to Expect During a CPC Assessment...

- Generally takes 1-2 days, conducted by a team of 2-3
- Structured interviews, and observation of groups and services
- Surveys of staff
- Policy/Procedure manuals
- Program schedules
- Treatment materials, manuals, and curriculums
- Review of case files and other program materials
- Program is scored and a report is generated
- Program scores are also compared to the average scores across all programs that have been assessed

# The CPC Report

- A draft report and recommendations (generally within 4-6 weeks)
- Program is given time to review and provide a response
- A final report with recommendations is then be given to the program
- BSCC staff will provide follow-up training, technical assistance, and planning sessions to assist grantees in increasing their capacities to deliver effective services based on the results of the CPC

# Certification of Staff

University of Cincinnati

- *Dr. Edward Latessa, Director and Professor of the School of Criminal Justice*

Staff certification process

- *4 days classroom*
- *Observation of UC staff conducting an assessment*
- *Participation in report and recommendations*
- *Independent assessment conducted*
- *Independent report and recommendations completed*

# RSAT Projects in California That Have Been Assessed with the CPC

- Riverside County
- Sacramento County
- Kern County
- Tulare County



# RSAT CPC Assessment Process

- Identify staff to be interviewed and curriculum used
- Identify materials for review prior to, and during, assessment
- Schedule and agenda developed for onsite visit
- Assessment conducted
- Report/recommendations generated
- Final report completed

# RSAT CPC Assessment Process Follow-up Training

- 2 days on-site in Sacramento
- Training on effective correctional practices and research supporting each indicator in the CPC report
- Breakout sessions with each project
- Development of a plan for implementing recommendations with each project

# Initial Observations of Progress and Improvements Made by RSAT Projects

- Targeting the right participants
- Using proper client/staff ratios
- Improved supervision of staff to insure quality and fidelity of service delivery
- Understanding the importance of and increasing the use of modeling, skill training, and graduated practice
- Using proper dosage for risk level
- Using risk, need and responsivity assessment tools
- Improved evaluation designs and use of expert resources and local universities
- Aligning completion with improvements in thinking & behavior

# CPC IMPACT ~RIVERSIDE COUNTY~

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY



Banning      Riverside  
Temecula      Indio  
Blythe

# Riverside County's Experience...

## Develop/Enhance Programs

- Comprehensive explanation and reason for the ratings—good and poor
- CPC provided specific domains to target for improvement
- Detailed suggestions on how to improve the rating for each domain

# Riverside County's Experience...

## Develop/Enhance Programs

- Step-by-step workshop facilitated by CPC trained BSCC staff helped us create a realistic plan to develop programming more inline with evidence-based principles
- Multiple counties with same program participated in the CPC which offered support and understanding—all in the same boat
- On-going support by BSCC staff to answer questions and provide direction to apply the CPC results in a practical and realistic setting

# Riverside County's Experience...

## CHALLENGES

- Faced with inadequate internal systems to process, deliver, and implement the recommendations in corrections—a restrictive setting
- Culture shock—old system of “one-size fits all” vs “Risk, Needs and Responsivity”
- Limited staffing (i.e., staff to inmate ratio for CBT groups)
- Cost to formally train staff on EBP selected curriculums (e.g., MRT, MI)
- Many months needed to hire, train, select materials, develop program, write procedures, create systems, and change the culture

# Riverside County's Experience...

## BENEFITS

- Proven method to improve outcomes
- Structured system that can be replicated and measured
- Industry specific: Comprehensive system to develop and implement evidence-based programming within a correctional setting
- Strengthens programming long-term and validates our mission and purpose
- BSCC technical support and assistance with implementation and clarifying details such as dosage hours versus activity hours

# CPC IMPACT ~KERN COUNTY~



# Kern County's Experience...

## Develop/Enhance Programs

- CPC report was an instruction guide to success
- Technical assistance from BSCC staff on how to implement the recommendations gave us the blueprint to develop a strategy
- Created consistency between cohorts

# Kern County's Experience...

## Develop/Enhance Programs

- Enhanced data collection process
- Collaboration between RSAT agencies created a resource that allowed all of us to learn from each other
- Created a therapeutic environment that allowed the participants to “Trust the uniform”

# Kern County's Experience...

## CHALLENGES

- Required systematic change on having Sheriff staff deliver programs
- Culture change with uniformed deputies
- Suggested treatment hours seemed unattainable
- Project Director involvement required scheduling creativity
- Staff not having the educational requirements to deliver programs

# Kern County's Experience...

## BENEFITS

- Piloted all changes in the program
- Implemented a contingency management with a reward system
- Added additional evidence-based curriculum that was designed to change behavior
- Sharing of offender needs assessments and case plans on all participants
- Created clear inclusion/exclusion criteria for participants

# California's CPC Implementation Process

## Current Status & Next Steps



- This implementation process acted as a pilot project which provided the BSCC with a model that can be replicated with other grant projects.
- Provided a baseline from which projects can assess the extent of their improvement that will bring them closer to adherence to evidence-based practices
- Currently used at the local level and at a state administrative level as a blueprint or plan for future growth and improvements
- RSAT Projects will be reassessed in year 3 or 4 to provide them with additional feedback on the gains they have made and reassess their adherence to evidence-based practices

# Questions



# For Additional Information Please Contact

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